Creating change through stories

By Wonder Chabalala

When last did you read a good book just to get lost in another world and stay there for some time learning new words or new ways of using words and simply savouring each moment? As a publisher and a book lover, I hate finishing a good book as it means having to find a new one – something which isn’t always that easy!

I grew up around books. In my childhood, every household owned a Dover stove. In a typical scene, Mother would be making supper and the whole family would be gathered in the candle-lit kitchen listening to the radio or to our parents telling stories. We didn’t worry about data or load shedding! It was this family time that bonded us as a family and instilled my love of words and stories.

I still share books with my sister and brothers today. When we meet, we speak about the books we’ve read and what we’ve learnt from them. It’s a real book club moment when we realise that we have all learnt and experienced something different but equally valuable from a book.

It’s important to me that we grow a nation of strong and powerful readers. But how do we change the phrase “black Africans don’t read”? We have good books about South Africa written by black South Africans. Books that are illustrated and have great story lines about our country. This is how we share our cultures and tell our stories. Let’s discover the treasures and knowledge which are hidden inside books so that we can share this with future generations.

Storytelling has been around for so many years, let’s preserve that. Let’s find time to read to our children and teach them how to read and write in their mother tongues. Let’s build a culture of reading and sharing words and story worlds. Great leaders write and read books. What kind of leader are you? What kind of leader do you want your children to be?

Wonder Chabalala has worked with and been inspired by books all his life. He is currently the Marketing Manager for the African branch of Cambridge University Press.

Go hlola phetogo ka dikanegelo

Ka Wonder Chabalala

Ke neng la molefele mo o badilego puku ya bose o balela fela gore o nyamelele ka gare ga lefase le lengwe gomme o dule faso sebokanyana o ifutha mantšu o maswa goba ditsele lla o diriša mantšu o ne o geno? Boku ka maphathWalile abile ke le mora le di dipuku, ke hlilelo go lela puku ye botse ka go se o se era gore ke hwetše ye mphasha – sela se o se sa se beng bonolo ka mehla!

Ke golele ka gare gore dipuku. Ke go be ka se ka le ngwana, lapa le lengwe le le lengwe le be le na le setšo sa Dover. Ka tiragalo ya go IwaSpider, Mma o ila be a aope a dipo ila go lalela gomme maloko o lapa o ila be a kgebake ke karonang ka lebone ka kerese, ka theledišo nteno seyatemoyeng gomme ba theledišo bsebake bo rena ka a reka dikanegelo. Be re be na thwelela go data goba phuhlamo ya mohlase! Nako ye ya lapa be e re lefetša tle ka lapa ya ba ya le tselelelelelele le lalela le dikanegelo go mna.

Le lehono ke sa abelana dipuku le bana ba gelo bo basetsana le ba bašemane. Ge re kapano sa balela ka dipuku tle re a dikanegelo le tse re ihušše le tle dipukung tla. Ke sebaka sa seleka sa dipuku sa mnela ge re lemona gore ka maka re ihušše gape re lemona sa se se fapanego efe sa go ba be le boleng bja go swana go fise pulung. Go bhokwela go mna gore re godiše babo go ba go tse gape ba mafatša. Efele re fetša blapo seke holwelo nno bo “belela bo Afrika ba balela ba ba be la bale”? Re ne la dipuku tle dibotse ka go Afrika Botse tla se ngwadele le ke khotso leke ke Afrika Botse. Dipuku tla go sekeholwela gape tla go ba bo la le metšaladi ke mhotši ke ga naga ya renna. Ye ke teloša ye re abelana go dite tla renna le go anegaša dikanegelo. A re utšaleng mahumo le tsebo ya go fisehwana ka dipukung gore re oletše se le temotša ya ka maso.

Ke mungwaga ye mentsi go anega dikanegelo go le gona, a re bolokeng se. A re be le noko ya go balela bana ba renna re ba nule go bale la go ngwala ka dipolelo tla bana tla ka gape. A re aposo sešo sa go bale le a le moraša mantšu le mofase a dikanegelo. Baetapele bo balele sa a bale la go ngwala dipuku. Nno vena o moetapelo wa mahutla mang? O nyaka gore bana ba gape e ba baetapele ba mahutla mang?

Wonder Chabalala o thelo ka dipuku tlebe di mo hwantedi bophelong bja gapeke ka moka. Gafulale ke Molakodi wa the Thekiso wa lekala ka Afrika la Cambridge University Press.
In June 2016, Nal’ibali announced an exciting new campaign called “FUNda Leader”! Could you be a FUNda Leader? Read on to find out more.

**What is the FUNda Leader Campaign?**

The FUNda Leader Campaign is a call to all South Africans to be literacy activists! It supports people and connects them as they go about encouraging adults and children at work and/or in their communities to read for pleasure.

**How is this different from what Nal’ibali has done before?**

Since 2012, Nal’ibali has partnered with other organisations to grow a reading culture in South Africa. Now, we are opening up this opportunity to members of the public.

**Who can be a FUNda Leader?**

A FUNda Leader is someone who wants to:

- grow a love of storytelling and reading among adults and children
- pass on the power of reading and stories
- grow a nation of strong and powerful readers
- join the growing wave of literacy change that is sweeping across our country

**How does it work?**

You’ll start by signing up to the Nal’ibali network.

- Then, Nal’ibali will give you the training and support you need to do simple things to grow literacy, and we’ll proudly keep a record of all the great things you do!
- You’ll be able to share your FUNda Leader experiences and photographs on Nal’ibali’s social media platforms so that everyone can see what you’re doing.
- Through social media we’ll connect you with other FUNda Leaders so that you can share ideas, work together or just grow your network of people who are as passionate about helping children develop a love of reading as you are.
- Active FUNda Leaders will get special offers and be able to enter competitions. They could also have the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the FUNda Leader network.

**How do I join?**

If you’re ready to stand up and be a FUNda Leader, get in touch with Nal’ibali right away! Contact us by email on info@nalibali.org or by phoning us on 02 11 804080. Find out more about the FUNda Leader Campaign at www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.
Story stars
Books in a flash!

Book Dash gets together volunteer professionals to create new, African storybooks that anyone can freely translate and distribute. Since they started in 2014, they’ve produced 52 new books, many of which have appeared in the Nal’ibali newspaper supplement. We spoke to this group of inspiring and passionate South Africans to find out more about the work they do.

How does Book Dash make books?
We hold book creation events where we get fifty volunteers – writers, illustrators, designers and editors – together in one place. They work for over twelve hours straight in small teams to produce new children’s storybooks.

Where do you find these volunteers?
We call for applications before a Book Dash event and then we select people we think are best suited to the task. For each event, we look for great talent and a range of languages, backgrounds, ages and genders. We choose experienced professionals that are very good at what they do because we have to produce good books so quickly.

Why do you do this?
We believe that all children should own a hundred books by the time they are five years old.

How do you help to make this happen?
The books we produce can be downloaded for free from our website (www.bookdash.org). We also fundraise so that we can give away printed copies of our books. So far, we have managed to give away 55,000 books.

Why do you think stories are important for children?
Stories help us make sense of the world, which makes us happier people. There’s also loads of science showing that children’s brains develop better – especially in the first one thousand days of life – if they have lots of books.

What kinds of books does Book Dash create?
We don’t set out to make books that teach children a lesson. We want to create books that children will just enjoy, because that’s how you encourage them to read – and actually, children learn best when they’re enjoying something.

What are some of your favourite children’s books?
I want my hat back by Jon Klaassen and any books by Julia Donaldson and Dr. Seuss.

You can find out more about Book Dash at www.bookdash.org and download free children’s books too!

O ka hwetša tše dintši ka ga Book Dash go www.bookdash.org gomme o ka laollwa le dipuku tša bana mahala!

Dinaledi tša dikanegele

Dipuku ka ponyo ya leihlo!

Book Dash e kopanya diporošenale tša go ithaopa go hlama dipuku tše diwso tša dikanegele tša Afrika tšoa di ka fetolelwago ke mang le mang tša phatlalatšwa. E sa le ba thoma ka 2014, ba tšwelediše dipuku tše diwso tše 52, tšeo bontši bia tšona di tšeweletšego ka ditfaleletšong tša Nal’ibali tša kuranta. Re boletše le sehlopha se sa mafrika 650 wa sa tutešiši lelerato go hwetša tše dintši ka ga mašo mo se mo le o dirago.

Naa Book Dash e dira dipuku bjangi?
Re ba le dlirašo tša Thabo ya dipuku fao re hwetša tšo bong, ka masomehlano–bangwadi, baswaniši, baskanyetši le banuvalani–teleng lethe be ba le mmogo. Ba soma sebaka sa go feta dinše lesempedi thwii ka sehlopana go tšeweletšo dipuku tše diwso tša dikanegele tša bana.

O ka hwetša baiholo ba kae?
Re dlira dipuku tše di thabo ba ronile dikapelé pele ga tiragalo ya Book Dash gomme na ke phetša bong re ba loketše mošešo wo! Tiragalo le ngwele ye le ngwe re lebalalea talente ye kgwla le mehuto ya dipolelo, bokamorago, mengwaga le bong. Re kegthele diporošenale tša ga ba le boitogomogelo ga la tša tšwela tša lebaka la mošešo kudu ba go bane re swaneši go tšeweletša dipuku ka bjako.

Ke ka lebaka la eng o dira se?
Re dumela go bana ba maka ge ba e ba le mengwaga ye mehlano ba swaneši ge ba ba na le dipuku tše leletho.

O thuša bjangi go kgonagatša se?
Dipuku tša re di tšweletšiša di ka laoliwa maša la posaetšeng ya rena (www.bookdash.org). Gape re kigošetša tšeletše gore re neelane ka dikhophi tša go gatlwa tša dipuku tše rena. Go fhoša gabolale, re kume re abela le dipuku tše 55000.

Ke ka lebaka la eng o nagana gore dikanegele di bohlokwa baneng?
Dikanegele e di re thuša gore re kwesiše lefaše, gomme se se dira gore re be batho baa ba bhalale. Gape re na le saene ye nti yeo e lašiša gore mabjoko a bana a ndilwane bokwane – kudu go matšašing a mapholang a bana – ge bana le dipuku tše dintši.

Book Dash e hlama dipuku tša mahuta mang?
Mašišišiši go se go hlama dipuku tša go ratha bana huše. Re nyaka go hlama dipuku tše e lete gore bana ba tša lehicha ka tšona, ka gbake be ka feg o a bhalalešišiša go bala – nnete ke gbake bana ba bala bokwane ge kagwena ka selo.

Tše dingwe tša dipuku tša bana tša mmororatša go wena ke dife?
I want my hat back ba Jon Klaassen le dipuku dife goa dife ka Julia Donaldson le Nal’ibali Ntšhong.
Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books, Stronger than Lion, (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and Is there anyone like me? (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10), as well as the Story Corner story, The best detective (pages 13 and 15) – a story featuring the N'aB'saMhI characters. Choose the ideas that best suit your children’s ages and interests.

Stronger than Lion

All the animals are worried about Lion’s appetite – it is so big that soon he will have eaten all the animals! Together they try to think of a plan to change things, but aren’t able to. Then, a little mouse comes up with a brave, two-week plan to keep them safe from Lion.

- Discuss these questions with older children:
  - When someone is called “mighty” it means that they are powerful. Who do you think was the most powerful in the story: Lion or Mouse? (Don’t forget to share the reasons for your opinion!)
  - What lessons do you think this story teaches?

- Use cardboard or paper plates, paint and string to create masks for the characters in the story. Then act out the story wearing your masks.
- Write a play using the text from the story – then perform it with friends!

- Ngwala papadi o diriša diteng tša kanegelo – gomme o e diragatše le bagwera!

Is there anyone like me?

This is a story about a young animal who searches for someone who is just like him, but then finds out that he is unique. It’s a sweet and simple story that celebrates how each of us is unique.

- As you read the book together, talk about the different animals and what they are doing in the pictures.
- Look at the picture on the cover with your children and talk about how we can see our reflections in water and in mirrors too. Let your children look at themselves carefully in the mirror and have fun pretending to describe themselves to someone who has never seen them before.
- Encourage your children to draw pictures of themselves and then to include the words on page 14 of the story with their pictures.

The best detective

Oh no! Bella can’t find Noodle anywhere! Bella’s friends help her to look for him and land up getting a big surprise – Noodle and his friend, Trise, and three new puppies!

- Maybe Bella should have made a “Lost” poster so that if someone found Noodle they would know who to return him to! Create this “Lost” poster on a piece of paper. Remember to include a picture of Noodle and a phone number for Bella’s mother, as well as anything else you think would be important for someone to know.
- Think of names for Noodle and Trise’s puppies. Then draw a picture of each one and write its name under its picture.

For more story activities, go to page 16.

Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
   a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
   b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
   c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Dira gore kanegelo e be le bophelo!

Fa ke tie dingwe tša dikgopo tšo go diriša dipuku tšo pedi tšo ripa-o-boloko, Ye maatla a go feta a Tau, (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) le Naa go le motho wa go swana le nna? (Matlakola a 7, 8, 9 le 10, le kanegelo ya SeKhuTlwana sa Ditakganelo, Letsela le le kaonekaone (Matlakola a 14 le 15) – kanegelo ya go ba le baogawena ba NaB’saMhI. Kgotsa dikgopo tša go swanela mengwaga ya bana ba gago le dikgahlelo tšo bana kudu.

Ye maatla a go feta a Tau

Diphoolo a kodi ma di belaSalaSala a ke go rata dijo a go Tau – ke ye kgolo kudu ka fa e se kgolo o tše and e jeh diphoolo a kodi! O tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tše le tš
The animals of the jungle decide that a meeting is long overdue. The meeting is to be no ordinary meeting, and each animal is to attend.

So the day, time and place is set.

All the animals are invited – except Lion ...

Trading as New Africa Books

This version of Stronger than Lion has been specially adapted for use in the Nal’ibali Supplement. The published storybook, Stronger than Lion, is available in English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Ndebele, Xitsonga, Swati, Tsivilwa and Setswana from Exclusive Books, Bargain Books and all good bookstores countrywide.

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi

Nal’ibali ke lesolo la go-balela-boipshino la bosetšhaba la go utella bokgoni bja bana ka go ane ga dikangelo le go bala. Go hwetšha tsedimošo ka botlalo, etela www.nalibali.org goba www.nalibali.mobi

Sindiwe Magona

Nicole Blomkamp

Stronger than Lion

Ye maatla a go feta a Tau
Once upon a time, the animals of the jungle decided a meeting was long overdue. This was to be no ordinary meeting and it was extremely important that each and every animal attend.

All the animals were invited to attend. All except Lion. He was not invited because, you see, the meeting was about him. But Lion thought he was not invited because he was King of the Jungle. "Perhaps," thought Lion, "these silly fools want to crown me King. About time!"

At last, the day of the meeting dawned, and a bright and sunny day it was. Elephant declared the meeting open. The animals were all fuming.
We believe every child should own a hundred books by the age of five.

Become a book-sponsor and help change the world.

Get involved at bookdash.org

Is there anyone like me?

Naa go na le motho wa go swana le nna?

Fred Strydom
Jess Jardim-Wedepohl
Stephen Wallace
I wonder if there's another me somewhere in the world.

But not just me, don't you see? There's also only one of you!
There’s only one me in the world! I’m special, oh it’s true!

Go na le nna o tee mo lefaseng!
Ke kgethegile, ee, ke nnete!

Who can do what I do …

... at every single face.

Ke ipotšiša gore e kaba go na le nna yo mongwe mo gongwe lefaseng.
And even has my curls. 
Gape a na le dikhele tša go swana le tša ka.

Someone with my eyes and my ears. 
Motho wa go ba le mahlo le ditsebe tša go swana le tša ka.

I couldn't find another me in any single place. 
Ga se ka hwetša nna yo mongwe lefelong lefe goba lefe.

Who looks the same … 
Wa go swana …

… and talks the same. 
… ebile a bolela go swana le nna.
"He did not come," said a small, hoarse and hesitant voice.
"You made a mistake, My Lordship," said Little Mouse, jumping up and down with glee. "He did come! Yes, he did!"
Mighty Lion rolled his dull eyes from side to side. "Where is he?"
"He is the one who is holding you where you are. He has drained you of all your strength. He has dried your tongue and stolen your roar!"
Mighty Lion’s eyes bulged. With his brow furrowed and his tongue hanging limply out of his mouth, he asked, "Hunger?"
Little Mouse nodded and ran out of that cave as fast as her little legs could carry her. She went and announced to all the animals of the jungle, "Hunger has slain our enemy!"
And so, this tale ends!
and he would no longer gobble them down at will. Little Mouse said. By then, she said, she would have tamed Mighty Lion.

How to stop the massacre?

"Friends," Wolf howled, "Lion's appetite is appalling. Every day many of us die, to provide a feast for his bottomless pit of a stomach. He is eating us up faster than we can produce babies. He even eats the little ones. They don't get a chance to grow up!"

"Surely," said Elephant, "there must be a way to stop this."

"My plan, I shall carry it out all by myself." Little Mouse said her piece. "To show you how much I believe in my plan, I shall carry it out all by myself."

"All I ask for is two weeks in which to carry out my plan," Little Mouse said. Finally, after many plans had been suggested and rejected, a plan on the table. They had to accept Little Mouse's plan.

"How to stop the massacre?"

"Let's set a date," Wolf said. "Then we can plan what to do after that." He turned towards the sound and everyone was surprised to see who had spoken those brave words.

"Bagwera," gwa lla Phiri, "Lerato la dijo la Tau le a makatša. Letšatši le lerato le a mafahleng, e tla be la a re tšweletšago bana ka lona. E ja le basi tla ba hesi, gape le dikgopula, e be re tla ba hesi ke a go botša. Efela, le ge kgoba ya tswinya, "Go se go ye kae, go se go ye kae, re tla ba hesi, go be go na le ditšhišinyo tše dintši, ke a go botša. Efela, le ge kgoba ya tswinya, "Go se go ye kae, go tla be go se na le o tee wa rena," Tšhukudu ya realo. Maatla gomme e ka se sa ba ja ka dibeke tše pedi fela, "Ke kgopela go phethagatša leano la ka ka dibeke tše pedi fela, gore e be le monyanya wa molete wa mphato wa yona." Maatla a yona a ile a fokotšega. Tlala le lenyora le tšona di ile tša ipha, lentšu le lennyane le ile la re, "Basadi le banna, ke na le ditšhišinyo ke nna." wa mphato wa yona o tla fihla e se kgale. "Ke kgopela go phethagatša leano," Maatla a bokoa kudu go fihlela, ka letšatši le lengwe, ge kgale. "Wena?" Thutlwa ya lla e palelwa ke go pitlela disego. "O nagana gore o tla ba bontši, gore e be le monyanya wa molete wa mphato wa yona thuto. Gabjale, diphoofolo tše dingwe le tšona tša sega Legotlwana Legotlwana sesego se ile sa ema. Diphoofolo di ile tša bona gore ga go sa ifo. Emetše Legotlwana la theeletša gabotsebotse ge kgopia. Efela ga se gwa ba le phetolo. Gomme Legotlwana la thelethla gabotsebotse ge e be ga go modumo ka lenew, gomme mafelelong la kwqga ikogga, go le go tseletla. Ka moragonyana, gwa kwagala modumo. - e be le modumo wa go dirwa. E le be le modumo wa go dirwa ke Tau ye Maatla e leka go rora, efela e se na maatla a go dira seo le gatee.

"Friends," Wolf howled, "Lion's appetite is appalling. Every day many of us die, to provide a feast for his bottomless pit of a stomach. He is eating us up faster than we can produce babies. He even eats the little ones. They don't get a chance to grow up!"

"Soon, there won't be any of us left," Rhino said.

"That is how dehydrated and famished he was. All his strength had left him. Of course, he was in no condition to go on a walk at all.

"He is eating us up faster than we can produce babies. He even eats the little ones. They don't get a chance to grow up!"

"Morena, ga se a tle le gona bjale?" Legotlwana le bea molongwana wa lona mongeng. "Ya ba bošego gape. Morago ya ba masa. Letšatši ka letšatši gwa direga seo. Tau ye Maatla ya rora, e emetšie go rathangana wa mphato wa yona. Efela wa mphato wa yona ga se a ba a filha. Gomme Legotlwana la e laela gore e eme, la e kgomthšišete gore wa mphato wa yona o ta filha e se kgale. Ge matšatši a sepela, Tau ye Maatla ya thoma go fela pelo kudu. Maatla a yona a ile a fokotšega. Tlala le lenyora le tšona di ile tša ipha. Ea ke kgale ka se sa ba ja ka dibeke tše pedi fela, gore e be le monyanya wa molete wa mphato wa yona thuto. Gabjale, diphoofolo tše dingwe le tšona tša sega Legotlwana Legotlwana sesego se ile sa ema. Diphoofolo di ile tša bona gore ga go sa ifo. Emetše Legotlwana la theeletša gabotsebotse ge kgopia. Efela ga se gwa ba le phetolo. Gomme Legotlwana la thelethla gabotsebotse ge e be ga go modumo ka lenew, gomme mafelelong la kwqga ikogga, go le go tseletla. Ka moragonyana, gwa kwagala modumo. - e be le modumo wa go dirwa. E le be le modumo wa go dirwa ke Tau ye Maatla e leka go rora, efela e se na maatla a go dira seo le gatee.

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Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Neo!" said Gogo. "Please see who is at the door."

Neo ran to the front door. When he opened it he saw Bella and her mother. Bella was crying.

“What’s wrong?” asked Neo. Bella cried even louder.

Gogo ran up to the front door. “Come in. Why is Bella crying?”

“It’s Noodle,” said Bella’s mother. “We can’t find him.”

“Noodle’s gone,” sniffed Bella. “Have you seen him?”

“Sit down,” said Gogo, giving Bella a tissue. “Dry your tears. We are going to help you. Neo, please phone Josh and ask him to come here.”

While Neo phoned Josh, Gogo sat between Bella and her mother on the couch.

“When did you last see Noodle?” Gogo asked.

“This morning,” said Bella. “He was playing on the field.”

“He is always home by lunch time,” said Bella’s mother.

“Gogo,” said Neo, “Josh said he and Hope will get here as quickly as they can.”

“What are we going to do, Gogo?” asked Bella sniffing loudly.

“When Josh and Hope get here we’ll make a plan. Right now we’ll all have some tea.”

Soon there was another Knock! Knock! Knock! at the door. Hope pushed Josh’s wheelchair inside.

“Don’t worry, Bella, we’ll find Noodle,” said Josh. “We’ll all be like detectives and look for him.”

“Yes,” said Gogo. “Now help us with some clues, Bella. Tell us where Noodle likes to go.”

Bella and her mother told them all the places where Noodle liked to play and visit.

“Good,” said Gogo. “I’ll put Mbali in her pushchair and we can all go and look for him.”

“Maybe we should go in different directions. Then it will be quicker,” suggested Josh. “Gogo, if you, Neo and Mbali go down River Road, then Bella and her mother can look at home and on the field again. Then they can go up School Street. Hope and I can go down Sambals Street.”

“What a good idea,” said Gogo. “You sound like a real detective, Josh.”

“He’s not in this street,” said Josh. Then his phone rang. “It’s Gogo,” he told Hope, “I hope they’ve found Noodle.”

Hope couldn’t hear what Gogo was saying to Josh, but she could hear Mbali shouting, Pink! Pink! Pink! loudly in the background.

“No,” said Josh when he had finished speaking to Gogo, “they haven’t found Noodle.” His phone rang again. “And that was Bella and her mother. They haven’t found him either.”

“Now what?” asked Hope.

“We should go and meet everyone at the shopping centre,” Josh said. A few minutes later everyone stood in front of the shopping centre. Bella’s eyes were red from crying. Gogo looked worried.

“Should we walk back and look again?” Gogo asked.

“No … Noodle …” said a small voice.

They all turned to look.

“Noodle!” said Mbali again. She pointed at the corner shop.

“Mbali?” said Gogo. “Where?”

“There’s nothing there, Mbali,” said Neo.

“NOOOOODLE!” shouted Mbali.

“We should go and have a look,” said Hope.

They walked to the shop on the corner. It sold bags and bangles, shirts and shoes. They all crowded in the doorway.

“In! In!” said Mbali pointing to inside the shop.

“You should see what we’ve found,” said the owner.

“In! In!” said Mbali pointing to inside the shop.

“Hello,” said the owner. “Welcome. Come inside. Let me just give my friend a biscuit, then I will help you.”

“NOODELE!” they all said together.

Bella rushed forward and hugged Noodle. “Where have you been? We’ve been looking everywhere.” Noodle’s tail wagged and he licked her face.

“Oh!” said the shop owner. “So he belongs to you. He comes to say hello at my home every morning.”

Continued on page 15.
“Molato ke eng?” gwa botšiša Neo. Bella o ile a lla ka go fetšiša.
Koko o ile a kìtìmelà lebating la ka pele. “Tsenang. Bella o lêla eng?”
“Ke Noodle,” mmago Bella a realo. “Ga re e bône.”
“Noodle e ile;” gwa sekhumula Bella. “O e bone?”
Ge Neo a lêlaša Josh, Koko o ile a dula magareng ga Bella le mmagwe mo sofeng.
Le bone Noodle neng la mafelelo?” gwa botšiša Koko.
“Mesong ya lehono,” a realo Bella. “O be a bapala lepateleng.”
“Ee,” a realo Koko, a bîle a fe mehlala, Bella. Re botšiše Noodle e rata gore nwa têye.”
Gateetee gwa kwagala Koko! Koko! Koko! ye nngwe lebating. Hope o ile a sepetše ba ya go thwethwa sa Josh ka gare.
“O se belaše, Bella, re tla hweša Noodle,” a realo Josh. “Ka moka ga re na tša ba bîja ka matsëka ra e nyâka.”
Bella le mmagwe ba bolela mafelo ka moka ao Noodle e ratago ga bapala go ona le go a etela.
“Agaa,” a realo Koko. “Ke tla tšeya Mbalî setulong sa gâgwe sa ga go kgorometsà gomme ka moka ra tša ra ya go e nyâka.”
“Môpôngwwe re swanetsê go ya mafeloŋ sa go fâpana. Se se tla dîrega ka lebêlo,” gwa šišina Josh. “Koko, go weña, Neo le Mbalî le ka sepela Mmîlêng wa River, gona Bella le mmagwe ba ka lebêlela kua gae le kua lepateleng gape. Ka morga ba ka ya Mmîlêng wa School. Nna le Hope re ka ya ka Mmîlêng wa Sambals.”
“Ke kgopolo ye boše yeo,” a realo Koko. “O kwagala bjalo ka letseka la nnete, Josh.”
“Ka moka ga rena re swanetsê go kopana go gongwe,” a realo Hope. “Ka moka re tla tšeba gore go dirêgago e bône.”
“Re tla lêlaša lêlaša mögala gatêe ge re le gare re lebêlela, gomme re ka tla ra kopana lefeloŋ la mabenkele,” a realo Josh.

“Ke ngwe ka sepela bjalo?” gwa botšiša Bella.
“Belle wa batho,” a realo Mbalî, a phaphâhatsha setiała sa Bella.
Bohle ba sepêtiše ba ya go nyâka Noodle. Hope o ile a kgorometsà setuło sa go thwethwa sa Josh pheibementeng. Bobedi bja bona ba ile ba bešiša leina la Noodle.

Hope o be a sa kwe gare Koko o botšiša Josh eng, efele o be a ekwa Mbalî ka kua morago a goešeša. “Pinkî! Pinkî! Pinkî!”
“Aowa,” a realo Josh ge a fetša go bolela le Koko, “ga se ba hwëtša Noodle. Môgala wa gâgwe o ile wa lla gape. “Gomme e be e le Bella le bompamagwe. Le bona ga se ba se mo hwëtša.”
“Bjale?” gwa botšiša Hope.
“Re swanetsê go yoa gahlana le bohle lefeleloŋ la mabenkele,” a realo Josh.
Metsøtsong ye mmôlwa ya go letaša le ge bohle ba eme pele ga lefele la mabenkele. Mahlo a Bella a be a hwbidišiwe ke go lla. Koko o be a bonala a thëwenegiše.
“Re boele morago go yo e nyâka gape?” gwa botšiša Koko.
“Noo ... Noodle ...” tênsu le lënnynya le realo. Ka moka ba retélégo ba lebêlela.
“Noodle!” Mbalî a realo gape. O ile a šupa sekhulung sa lebêlela.
“Mbalî?” a realo Koko. “Kae?”
“Go na le se sengwe fale, Mbalî,” a realo Neo.
“NOOOOOODDLE!” gwa goešeša Mbalî.
“Re swanetsê go yo lebêlela,” a realo Hope.
Ba ile ba ya lebêlelenk la sekhulung. Le be le rekôša mekolô la maseka, dihempe le dieta. Ba ile ba tîla lebating. Ba ile ba tîla lebating.
“Ka gare! Ka gare!” a realo Mbalî a šupa ka lebêlelenk.
“NOODLE!” ka moka ba realo sammeletša.
Bella o ile a kìtìmelà pele, a gôkara Noodle. “O be o le ka? Re lebeleletše goshe.” Noodle e bê e tšikotša mosela gomme ya latswa sefahêgo sa gâgwe.
Everyone started talking at once. Mrs Modise was very happy to meet Noodle’s owner. Bella was happy she had found Noodle. Josh and Hope were thinking about the puppies. Neo and Gogo were smiling. Then Neo turned and gave Mbali a big kiss and a hug. “Mbali,” he whispered, “you are the best detective ever.”


From page 13.

“Pink!” said Mbali.

“Yes. The pink house on the corner next to the field. He comes to play with my little dog, Trixie. I’m so sorry if you have been worried. It’s the first time he has come down to the shop.”

While everyone cuddled, stroked and patted Noodle, the shopkeeper told them that her name was Mrs Modise. She was new in town and had just opened her shop.

“Noodle made friends with Trixie the day we moved in,” she said. “They play every morning and then Noodle goes home. But today was a little different. Today there was a big surprise and I had to bring Trixie to work with me.”

Just then Mbali got out of her pushchair and started to shout.

“NOODLES!”

“Yes,” said Neo, “you found him.”

Bella kissed Mbali’s cheek. “Yes, thank you so much.”

“No, no, no!” shouted Mbali. “Noodle, Noodle, Noodle! LOOK!”

Gogo, Neo, Bella, her mother, Josh and Hope moved to where Mbali was standing. They crowded around Mbali and stared.

“Yes,” said Mrs Modise, “THAT was the big surprise.”

Noodle pushed passed everyone’s legs and sat down next to Trixie’s basket. He looked very proud.

“Look,” said Mbali, “Noodle, Noodle, Noodle!”

Trixie was in the basket with three tiny pinkish puppies and all three looked just like Noodle.

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Nal’ibali fun
Boipshino bja Nal’ibali

1. Can you find the words in the story Stronger than Lion that fit with this picture? Once you’ve found them do the following.
   1. Cut out this picture and paste it in the middle of a large sheet of paper.
   2. Write the words from the story that go with it under the picture. You might also want to add some speech bubbles to the picture.
   3. Draw two boxes the same size as this picture – one to the left of the picture and one to the right of it.
   4. In the empty boxes, draw pictures to show what happened in the story just before this picture and just after it. Then copy the words from the story under your pictures.

2. Can you help? The kite strings have got mixed up. Work out which kite belongs to Bella, Noodle and Mbali. Then colour in the kites.

3. Which letters of the alphabet do not appear in the names of the characters in The best detective?

   BELLA
   GOGO
   HOPE
   JOSH
   MBALI
   MRS MODISE
   NEO
   NOODLE
   TRIXIE

   A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

   A B C

   1. Ripa seswantšho se o se kgamanele gore ga lelagakelo la lego la lampiri.
   2. Ka tšate ga seswantšho ngwalo mantšu a go sepelela le sona a go tlwa kanegelo. O ka nyako go tša tša lelwalela tša leswa seswantšho.
   3. Thlho mapokisi o maedi a bogo a go lela le bja seswantšho – le leka ka lehlakoreng la ngwalo seswantšho, le lekgwe ka lehlakoreng la goja seswantšho.
   4. Ka maokisi o go se be le sela, thlho dswa seswantšho go ke lela seswantšho se le ka monag go sona. Gomme ka itša ga dswa seswantšho tša goago a koppetse go swa seswantšho.

   Naa o ka hwetša mantšu ka go kanegelo ya Ye maatla a go feta a Tau ao a sepelela le seswantšho se? Ge o a hweditše dira tše di latelela.
   1. Tau ya re go kwa seo, ya rora gampe ka maatla. Mehlare ya lesodi ya šikinyega gomme diphoofolo tša sepediša tša iphihla ka diphagong, dihlageng le lefelong lefe goba lefe leo ba ka iphihlago go lona, di sa nyake go tseba gore ke la mang.
   2. A = Mbali, B = Bella, C = Noodle

   Dikarabo:
   1. Tau ya re go kwa seo, ya rora gampe ka maatla. Mehlare ya lesodi ya šikinyega gomme diphoofolo tša sepediša tša iphihla ka diphagong, dihlageng le lefelong lefe goba lefe leo ba ka iphihlago go lona, di sa nyake go tseba gore ke la mang.
   2. A = Mbali, B = Bella, C = Noodle

   1. I bring rather surprising news, My Lord. 
   2. Speak!
   3. There is, unbeknown to us, an animal stronger than your Lordship!

   At that, Lion gave a terrible, mighty roar. The trees in the jungle shook and the animals scurried and hid in their burrows, nests and whatever else they could find, whether it was theirs or someone else's.

   Every single animal, big or small, wanted to hide from Mighty Lion. And hide as fast as possible. That roar told them he was mighty upset. And you don't want to be anywhere near a lion that is upset.

   "WHAAT?" Lion roared. "Wha-at did you say?"

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Drive your imagination